



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

PART 101 ESM	SUBJECT Ecological Services Manual - Habitat as a Basis for Environ- mental Assessment	RELEASE NUMBER 4-80
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Division of Ecological Services, 343-5197		DATE Sep. 15, 1980

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

Enclosed is the fourth release of the new Ecological Services Manual. It contains the following part:

101 ESM Habitat as a Basis for Environmental Assessment

This manual release is to be filed in your "Habitat Evaluation Procedures" binder.


Associate Director, Environment

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Remove: Nothing.

Insert New Material: 101 ESM should be inserted between 100 ESM and 102 ESM in the Habitat Evaluation Procedures Binder.

Transmittal Memorandum: File behind the Transmittal Memorandum 3-80 at the back of the Habitat Evaluation Procedures Binder.

Habitat as a Basis for Environmental Assessment

101 ESM



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Preface

Since 1974, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been developing a habitat-based evaluation methodology entitled the Habitat Evaluation Procedures for use in impact assessment and project planning. This work has led to the development of a series of documents published as part of the Ecological Services Manual of the USFWS (USFWS 1980). One of these documents, entitled "Habitat as a Basis for Environmental Assessment" (101 ESM), addresses the rationale for a habitat-based technique and discusses the conceptual approach to habitat assessment.

The Habitat Evaluation Procedures (102 ESM) describes how the concepts of habitat evaluation can be implemented in a standardized procedure for conducting impact assessments.

Another document, "Standards for the Development of Habitat Suitability Index Models for Use with the Habitat Evaluation Procedures" (103 ESM), provides guidance in the development of habitat models. These documents provide the user with a basic tool for habitat evaluations.

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